

# Bacon



**A bid for the 1994 Unicon  
8-10 July 1994, New Hall, Cambridge**

## Details

When	8-10 July 1994		
Where	New Hall, Cambridge		
Membership	Pre-supporting:	£2	
	Supporting:	£6	
	Attending:	£14 for non-pre-supporters	
		£11 for pre-supporters until 1st Sept	
		£12 for pre-supporters thereafter	
Room prices	(The prices given here are for a single room for one night, and are only provisional. If we win the bid, then details of the availability of double rooms and correct prices will be given out with room booking forms in a later progress report.)		
		<u>Student</u>	<u>Other</u>
	Bed & breakfast	£14	£24
	Bed only	£10	£20
Contact	Bacon 38 Scotland Road Cambridge CB4 1QG		
Telephone	0223 564483 (evenings)		
E-mail	bacon@derwent.co.uk		

## New Hall

New Hall was founded in 1954 and remains one of only two women-only undergraduate colleges in Cambridge. It possesses the most striking architecture of Cambridge's modern colleges, the most spectacular feature being the white dome above the dining hall. New Hall is set in beautiful gardens towards the north of Cambridge, with restaurants within a couple of minutes walk and the historic town centre and the river within about ten minutes walk. The college houses a permanent collection of works by modern women artists.

Accommodation consists of study bedrooms, with showers and bathrooms on each floor. The convention will be using the college's lecture room (seating 160) for the talks, panels, readings, performances and ceremonies in the main programme. In addition there will be a video room showing a programme of films 24 hours a day, two small programme rooms for the alternative programme items and the many workshops we intend to hold, (and where filmmakers will be able to hold all-night film sessions while the rest of the con sleeps or parties) and a dealers room. We will have access to the college bar, the college's party room where we will set up a real ale bar, and to Fountain Court, where we hope to hold a barbecue on Saturday night.

## Manifesto

Before we go to conventions, we all have a preconceived idea of what it is that will make it enjoyable: the programme, the company, the setting and the guests are all ingredients and it is a fine balancing act to make the whole better than the sum of the parts. We have been planning Bacon for some time and have all firm ideas on what 'makes' a con for us.

The Unicon, like the Eastercon, is meant to be a general sf convention and we are keen to strike a balance in our programme, providing something for everyone, from the serious to the plain silly, from literature to media, in an atmosphere where members are encouraged to participate. Unfortunately, I have been to too many conventions where the programme has been a repetitive shambles, devoid of new ideas, and sadly some of the con-runners involved were not inexperienced, but people we respect and trust to run good cons. Worst of all, in my opinion, is a sense of complacency that seems to pervade everyone who has been con-running for some time. They run programmes dominated by panels because they have always run them thus. Indeed when questioned about their almost total reliance on standard panels at Helicon, a member of the committee asked "What else is there?"

It could be so different. Conventions in recent years like Illumination (1992) and the last Cambridge Unicon, Uniconze (1990) (both chaired by Rhodri James) began to innovate. They broke away from the stale panel format and introduced new ideas in member involvement. There were still panels, but the organisers tempered them with floating panels, workshops and discussions.

For Bacon our watchwords are innovation and participation, as we aim to continue this trend. While we do not intend to completely avoid the traditional items like talks and panels, they will be shorter (we do not intend to force half-hour items into one-hour slots), more open, the participants better prepared and the audience encouraged to enter into the debate. Floating panels—first seen at Uniconze—where vocal or more informed members of the audience can be 'swapped' for panel members, will be more in evidence as will mediated discussions and thingar. We intend to continue the emphasis on participation by holding workshops, not only on writing and drama, but also on criticism, costume, and film.

Of course we will not abandon the traditional elements of the Unicon: the cocktails workshop, 24-hour video streak, masquerade and food tasting workshop will all find a place in our programme and games and quizzes should fill in any gaps so members are not forced to spend all day hanging around with nothing to do. Of course there will always be those who end up spending the day in the bar (or our real ale bar) but we intend to give you the choice.

We think that by putting new programming ideas into practice in a setting like New Hall we can organise an enjoyable convention for all involved. All we need now is your support.



## Committee

The Bacon committee is a mix of experience and enthusiasm. All of its members are members of the two Cambridge societies: Cambridge University Science Fiction Society (CUSFS) and the fantasy society Jónsborg the New.

**Helen Steele** (Chair) is plagued by an inability to say 'no': she has chaired one-day convention Pentacon, is Exhibition Manager for the 1995 Worldcon, editor of fanzine *ttba* and Meadkeeper of Jónsborg the New.

**Matthew Reid** (Treasurer) has proved he can cope with the world of high finance while treasurer of both CUSFS and Pentacon.

Our publications supremo is **Gareth Rees**, who did publications for Uniconze and edited *ttba* for two years.

**Mel Barlow** (Site Liaison) is new to conrunning but her experience as president of the New Hall student union should prove invaluable in our dealings with Biddy, New Hall's friendly conference manager.

**Robert Wilson** (Programming) brings to Bacon the experience gained from co-chairing and co-ordinating the programme at Pentacon.

**Tim Morley** (Publicity) hopes that Bacon will give him an opportunity to mix his enthusiasms for fireworks, computers, food and conrunning.

**Jon Knight** (Secretary) is another newcomer to conrunning whose enthusiasm should bring new ideas and a fresh perspective to our committee.

Last but not least, **Sion Arrowsmith** is General Troubleshooter for Bacon. Another ex-editor of *ttba* and Pentacon committee member, his role will be to notice and fix the problems that the rest of us miss.

## Membership List

The current membership list appears below ('C' means committee and 'P' means pre-supporting). If your name is incorrect or if you think you have joined and do not appear in this list, then be certain to contact us.

15P David Anderson  
5C Sion Arrowsmith  
6C Mel Barlow  
26P John Bray  
20P Richard Brooksby  
19P Toby Cadoux  
30P Nick Clark  
24P Dave Clements  
12P Paul Cooper  
32P Cardinal Cox  
9P John Dallman  
18P Clive Jones  
16P Tom Kingston  
1C Jon Knight  
3C Timothy Morley  
21P Rupert Moss-Eckhart  
10P Caroline Mullan

27P Siobhan Murphy  
25P Tom Nanson  
22P Jon Peatfield  
31P Simon Pick  
23P Marc Reid  
7C Matthew Reid  
2C Gareth Rees  
34P Neil Spenley  
4C Helen Steele  
29P Graeme Taylor  
28P Ivan Towlson  
33P Paul Treadaway  
11P Barry Traish  
14P Huw Walters  
13P Alastair Wheeler-Reid  
17P Michael Williams  
8C Robert Wilson